UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/6 (Prog. 26)
29 July 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

MAJOR PROGRAMME V. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 26. Social integration

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below replace the existing narrative of programme 26, Integration of social groups, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and subsequently revised by the Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and issued in document A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1. The proposals reflect the new emphasis that Member States have placed on integration aspects of social groups in development during the preparatory process for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. In view of the scope of the revisions proposed for this programme, it has been found necessary to present the revised narrative in its entirety.

4. The following text replaces programme 26, Integration of social groups, of A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

"PROGRAMME 26. SOCIAL INTEGRATION

"A. Programme

"1. General orientation

"26.1 The basic mandate of the programme derives from the second and fourth preambular paragraphs of the Charter of the United Nations, which reaffirm the dignity and worth of the human person and the promotion of social progress. Social integration assumed special prominence with its identification as a priority theme of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, as mandated in resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992.

"26.2 Social integration obtained programmatic expression in the following international instruments related to ageing, disability and youth:

"(a) International Plan of Action on Ageing, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982;

"(b) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982;

"(c) Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/14 of 18 November 1985;

"(d) United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/91 of 16 December 1991;

"(e) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993.

"26.3 The objective of the programme is the promotion of the concept of society for all through full and effective participation of all social groups on the basis of equality.

"26.4 More specifically, the programme aims at further implementation of the international instruments related to social integration. Those instruments provide the framework for social integration policy analysis, programme planning and institutional development.

"2. Overall strategy

"26.5 The programme will be implemented by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and will be carried out through three complementary sets of activities:

"(a) Providing substantive support to the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies on social integration strategies, policies and programmes, in particular the Commission for Social Development, the

Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The work will include periodic monitoring of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of international instruments concerned with social integration;

"(b) Promoting increased awareness and understanding of issues and trends in social integration and development at national and international levels. The work will include organization of global reviews and evaluations of social integration policies and programmes, preparation of technical studies, provision of selected information and referral services, and issuance of recurrent bulletins and newsletters;

"(c) Providing upon request substantive inputs to technical cooperation activities in the field, to the organization of technical exchanges and training activities, and to the review, appraisal and evaluation of grants from specialized trust funds managed by the programme: the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Youth Year.

"26.6 The programme will be carried out in close cooperation with the regional commissions as well as UNDP and other relevant agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

3. "Subprogramme structure and priorities

"26.7 The social integration programme will consist of four subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Youth policies and programmes
Subprogramme 2. Ageing policies and programmes
Subprogramme 3. Disability policies and programmes
Subprogramme 4. Social institutions and development

"26.8 There is no priority designation among these subprogrammes.

"B. Subprogrammes

"SUBPROGRAMME 1. YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

"(a) Objectives

"26.9 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is derived from the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 40/14, paragraphs 1 and 7; 41/97, paragraphs 4 and 5; 41/99, paragraphs 2 and 3; 42/54, paragraph 3; 42/55, paragraphs 2 and 3; 43/94, paragraphs 2, 4, 5 and 13; 44/59, paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 12, 15 and 16; 45/103; and resolution 47/85, paragraphs 2, 5 and 9; and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1986/13, paragraphs 4 and 5; 1987/45, paragraph 4; 1987/51, paragraph 4; 1989/51, paragraphs 5 and 8; 1991/11; and 1993/24, paragraphs 2, 3 and 7.

"26.10 Young people are expected to account for an estimated 25 per cent of the world's population by the year 2000. The youth population is expected to increase some 60 per cent during the 1990s, with rates in excess of 80 per cent among least developed countries. In spite of this sustained rate of growth there is an observed tendency not to incorporate youth-related concerns into national development policies and plans. Many of the problems that affect young people thus result from limited data and information on the situation of youth, limited capacities for integrated planning and coordination, weak inter-institutional linkages for implementation and limited resource capacities in terms of finances and personnel.

"26.11 Subprogramme 1 has three main objectives:

"(a) To assist Governments in analysing policy options from a youth perspective, formulating integrated plans and specific programmes to further their social integration as development agents and beneficiaries, and to design effective mechanisms for implementation monitoring;

"(b) To promote greater awareness and understanding of the situation, needs and aspirations of young people and to build increased recognition in both public and private sectors of the contribution that young people can make to all aspects of development;

"(c) To strengthen and improve national capacities and institutional capabilities, including capacities of youth non-governmental organizations, for integrated approaches to youth issues and concerns.

"(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

"26.12 At its fiftieth session, in 1995, the General Assembly will consider a draft world programme of action on youth to the year 2000, which will be adopted in connection with the observation in 1995 of the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year. Special attention will be accorded to national and regional action. This would include promotion and development of national networks and related coordinating mechanisms on youth, provision on request of substantive support to national action to further implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth and planning and organizing technical meetings on selected youth and development topics. As appropriate, support will be provided to catalytic and innovative follow-up to the programme from resources of the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Youth Year.

"26.13 Inter-agency consultations and collaboration in the field of youth will be expanded to provide an integrated framework both for observation of the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and its follow-up, and for strengthening national capacities for the youth perspective.

"26.14 At the international level, practical methods and procedures for policy analysis and evaluation from the youth perspective will be developed and international exchanges of technical information expanded.

Documentation and information services will be developed on a pilot basis with a view to strengthening channels of communication on youth with all interested parties: Governments, the United Nations system and private and voluntary sectors. It is envisaged that biennial meetings of the Youth Forum of the United Nations will be convened with emphasis on observance of and follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year.

"SUBPROGRAMME 2. AGEING POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

"(a) Objectives

"26.15 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is derived from the International Plan of Action on Ageing, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 37/51; 40/29, paragraph 4; 41/96, paragraphs 5 to 8; 42/51, paragraphs 1, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12; 43/93, paragraphs 5 to 9; 44/67, paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 8 and 16; 45/106, 46/91, 46/94 and 48/98; and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1989/50, 1991/10 and 1993/22.

"26.16 By the year 2025, the world's population will have gone through a demographic transition. The elderly worldwide will number over 1 billion persons and will constitute about 15 per cent of the whole. Over 70 per cent of those elderly persons will be living in the developing regions of the world. It is imperative, therefore, that policies and programmes be set in place now by Member States to shoulder the impact of the ageing of their populations.

"26.17 With that in mind, the objectives of subprogramme 2 are:

"(a) To promote full and effective participation of the elderly in all aspects of development;

"(b) To formulate integrated policies, strategies and programmes based on comprehensive analyses of the impact of social and economic changes on ageing and the impact of the elderly on societies;

"(c) To strengthen and improve national capacities in order to respond effectively and efficiently to the ageing of populations;

"(d) To promote and coordinate joint inter-agency action on ageing and development.

"(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

"26.18 The third update of the world ageing survey will take place in 1996, as will a quadrennial review of the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

"26.19 The General Assembly will have for its consideration at its fiftieth session, in 1995, a draft conceptual framework of a programme for preparation for and observance in 1999 of the International Year of the Elderly.

"26.20 At the international level, documentation and information services will be developed on a pilot basis in cooperation with interested centres and institutions to strengthen exchanges of information in the field of ageing, including organizations of older persons. Practical methods and procedures for policy analysis and evaluation from the ageing perspective will be developed, cooperative studies carried out and exchanges of technical information expanded. Substantive support will be provided on request to national action aimed at further implementing the Plan and organizing technical meetings on selected ageing and development topics. As appropriate, support will be provided to catalytic and innovative follow-up to the Plan from resources of the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing. In addition, assistance will be provided by the Banyan Foundation for mobilization of resources among private and voluntary sectors to further implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

"26.21 Upon request assistance will be provided to Member States in establishing and developing networks of national machinery and of centres and institutions for training and research in the field of ageing with a view to strengthening national capacities for integrated approaches to ageing and development.

"SUBPROGRAMME 3. DISABILITY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

"(a) Objectives

"26.22 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is derived from the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 37/52, paragraphs 4 to 7, 9 and 10; 41/104, paragraph 2; 42/58, paragraphs 4, 7, 9 and 18; 42/98, paragraphs 6 to 9, 12, 13 and 17; 44/70, paragraphs 6 to 11, 15, 18 and 19; 45/91, 46/96, 47/88, 48/95 and 48/96; and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1985/35, paragraphs 2 to 6; 1986/16, paragraphs 4 and 5; 1987/43, paragraphs 3, 6 and 7; 1989/52, paragraphs 3 to 6, 9 and 10; 1990/26, 1991/9, 1993/19, 1993/20 and 1993/21.

"26.23 The end-of-Decade review and appraisal indicated that disablement is not a problem of any one group of the population: demographic changes, ageing population structures in particular, rapid urbanization and associated strains placed on available service facilities and armed conflicts are contributing to an estimated increase of the number of people with disabilities in excess of 10 per cent of the world's population. Available data also suggest that a great deal of disablement can be prevented through low-cost preventive and detection measures and practical rehabilitation, especially at community level. There is also a need to address the situation of people with disabilities in terms of integrated policies and plans to achieve a "society for all" and not solely as sectoral social concerns.

"26.24 Subprogramme 3 has three main objectives:

"(a) To further implementation of the goals of full participation of persons with disabilities in social life and development, and of equality as it pertains to equalization of opportunities;

"(b) To monitor and evaluate the needs and aspirations of people with disabilities, especially those with limited autonomy, physical or mental impairment, and to promote effective integration of the efforts to respond to those needs and concerns in national development policies and plans;

"(c) To strengthen and improve national capacities and institutional capabilities, including capacities of organizations of disabled people, for integrated approaches to disability issues and concerns.

"(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

"26.25 The General Assembly will consider at its forty-ninth session, in 1994, a long-term strategy to further implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the year 2000 and beyond. At its fiftieth session, in 1995, the Assembly will consider the first report on implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities, adopted at its forty-eighth session. The third quinquennial review of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementation of the World Programme of Action will be carried out in 1997.

"26.26 At the international level, pilot activities in documentation and information services will be developed further in cooperation with interested centres and institutions to strengthen exchanges of information in the disability field. Public information and awareness initiatives related to reaching the goal of a "society for all" will be undertaken. Upon request substantive support will be provided to national action to further implementation of the World Programme of Action. Substantive support will also be provided to the activities of the Special Rapporteur for the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities for the successful discharge of his mandate. Technical meetings on selected topics in the disability field will be organized. Support will also be provided to catalytic and innovative follow-up to the World Programme of Action and the application of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities through, inter alia, inter-agency consultations and collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system.

"26.27 As follow-up to the endorsement by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in 1991, of the Beijing Guidelines for the Development of Organizations of Disabled Persons, special emphasis will be directed to establishing and developing partnerships with Governments and public, private and voluntary sectors, especially among organizations of disabled people, through technical exchanges, training workshops and seminars on selected issues in the disability field, with emphasis on promoting equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities.

"SUBPROGRAMME 4. SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

"(a) Objectives

"26.28 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 47/92, 47/181 and 48/166.

"26.29 In a rapidly changing world, the institutions of society need to be able to adapt to new developments in technology, economic structures and associated patterns of employment, levels of living and demographic structures. The capacities of social institutions to perform traditional roles are facing increased challenges both to meet traditional functions and to respond to changes in global society. It is increasingly recognized that stable and integrated societies will seek ways to emphasize non-discrimination, equality of opportunity, equal access to the institutions of the State, participatory forms of decision-making and the adaptation of traditional institutions to the requirements of a changing world.

"26.30 Subprogramme 4 has two main objectives:

"(a) To monitor and evaluate issues and trends in institutional development and to assess their impact on social integration and development. Specific issues relate to devolution and decentralization, forms of partnership between Government and the private sector and non-governmental organizations, alternatives for those involved in the decision-making process and to the delivery of social services;

"(b) To strengthen and improve national capacities and institutional capabilities for social integration, including capacities of specialized non-governmental organizations.

"(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

"26.31 Emphasis will be accorded to:

"(a) The collection and dissemination of experience with innovative instruments in the context of social diversity;

"(b) The formulation of policy options to promote appropriate conditions by which institutions of civil society may play their appropriate role, particularly as this pertains to the family, to traditional forms of self-help association at community level and to cooperatives and related institutional arrangements;

"(c) Assisting Governments on request in promoting the establishment and functioning of participatory institutions to further social integration and national development."